

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-02

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01

TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

FEA-01 AEC-07 CEA-01 FPC-01 INT-05 SAM-01 OES-05

STR-04 AECE-00 /107 W

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O R 160855Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6763

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS TOKYO 16355

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, JA

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER MIKI'S FIRST POLICY SPEECH

REF: TOKYO 16299

1. SUMMARY. PRIME MINISTER MIKI, IN HIS FIRST SPEECH BEFORE THE DIET, CONVERGED THE SAME GROUND THAT HE DID IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE (REFTEL. HE EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR GLOBAL COOPERATION IN SOLVING JAPAN'S URGENT PROBLEMS, ECONOMIC STABILIZATION MEASURES AND SOCIAL JUSTICE. HE REPEATED THAT THERE WILL BE NO BASIC CHARGE IN JAPAN'S FOREIGN POLICY. PRESS AND OPPOSITION PARTY REACTIONS WERE STRONGLY NEGATIVE. THE LDP IS PLEASED, HOWEVER, WITH MIKI'S "ABSTRACT," NON-CONTROVERSIAL APPROACH. END SUMMARY.

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2. PRIME MINISTER MIKI, IN HIS FIRST POLICY SPEECH BEFORE THE DIET DECEMBER 14, REPEATED THE BASIC POINTS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY MADE AT HIS FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE DECEMBER 12 (REFTEL. EMPHASIZING THE FACT THAT THE MOST URGENT PROBLEMS FACING THE NATION -- INFLATION, RECESSION, CURRENCY PROBLEMS, ENERGY, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND FOOD -- CANNOT BE SOLVED BY JAPAN ALONE, HE APPEALED FOR THE "BUILDING OF A NEW WORLD ORDER ON THE BASIS OF GLOBAL COOPERATION."

3. REGARDING INTERNAL PROBLEMS, MIKI SAID HE WOULD:

-- FOLLOW AN ECONOMIC POLICY OF SHIFTING TO A STABLE GROWTH RATE, AND MAINTAINING RESTRAINTS ON OVERALL DEMAND WHILE TAKING POSITIVE STEPS TO IMPROVE THE BASIC TRUCTURE OF THE ECONOMY AND REINFORCE THE AREAS THAT LAG BEHIND.

-- AID THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY HARD HIT UNDER INFLATIONARY CONDITIONS, SUCH AS THOSE LIVING ON RETIREMENT, FAMILIES ON RELIEF, THE AGED, AND THE HANDICAPPED.

-- ASK FOR MODERATION FROM BOTH MANAGEMENT AND LABOR TO CHECK INFLATION.

-- TACKLE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS THROUGH A CABINET-LEVEL ECONOMIC COUNCIL UNDER THE "OVERALL SUPERVISION" OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA.

4. REGARDING INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS, MIKI SAID:

-- FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES FORM THE "AXIS" OF JAPAN'S DIPLOMACY.

-- SIGNING OF A SINO-JAPANESE PEACE TREATY WILL BE EXPEDITED, AND SIGNING OF A SMILIAR TREATY WITH THE SOVIET UNION WILL BE "TACKLED POSITIVELY."

-- INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN SOLVING THE ENERGY CRISIS WILL BE EMPHASIZED. OIL CONSERVATION MEASURES MUST DERIVE FROM RATIONAL USE OF THE PRECIOUS RESOURCE, "NOT AS A JOINT STRATEGY OF THE OIL CONSUMING NATIONS TO PUT PRESSURES ON THE UNCLASSIFIED

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OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES."

5. PRESS REACTION TO THE SPEECH WAS STRONGLY CRITICAL. MIKI WAS CHARGED WITH FAILING TO DEAL WITH ANY OF THE ISSUES EXCEPT IN GENERALITIES. MAINICHI SAID, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT "ALL WE HAVE GOT FROM MIKI SO FAR ARE MERE WORDS." THE PAPER ASKED HIM FOR CONCRETE MEASURES TO RECTIFY SOCIAL INJUSTICES, AND STRONGLY RECOMMENDED A

DRASTIC OVERHAUL OF THE TAX SYSTEM, WHICH THE PAPER CLAIMED, NOW FAVOR THE RICH. YOMIURI SAID THAT "MIKI SEEMED TO BE DODGING THE ISSUES," AND ASKED HIM TO COME UP WITH SPECIFIC MEASURES IN HIS NEXT SPEECH.

6. ALL OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES, AS EXPECTED, SIMILARLY ATTACKED MIKI FOR HIS "BEAUTIFUL BUT VAGUE" OBJECTIVES, AND QUESTIONED HIS ABILITY TO FOLLOW THROUGH IN THEM. IN ADDITION, JCP TOOK HIM TO TASK FOR FAILING TO EXPLAIN HOW HE INTENDED TO RECTIFY CORRUPT PRACTICES INVOLVING TANAKA AND THE PARTY. THE JCP AND JSP ALSO CRITICIZED MIKI FOR IGNORING THE ISSUE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS ABOARD US WARSHIPS VISITING JAPAN. THE DSP, WHILE EXPRESSING DISAPPOINTMENT WITH MIKI'S BLANDNESS, OFFERED ITS FULL COOPERATION REGARDING CORRECTION OF SOCIAL INJUSTICE AND OFFERING OF RELIEF

TO MEDIUM AND SMALL BUSINESSES.

6. THE LDP LEADERSHIP PUBLICLY DEFENDED MIKI'S "ABSTRACT" OR "GLOBAL" APPROACH ON GROUNDS THAT IT WAS HIS MAIDEN SPEECH, AND HE WILL TREAT THE ISSUES IN CONCRETE TERMS IN HIS STATE-OF-THE-NATION SPEECH IN LATE JANUARY. PRIVATELY, LDP SOURCES HAVE INFORMED US THAT THE PARTY IS PLEASED WITH MIKI'S "ABSTRACT" APPROACH IN THIS SPEECH AS WELL AS HIS FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE, AND HIS CONSEQUENT AVOIDANCE OF POLITICAL PITFALLS.
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